

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO USLO CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII
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USLO TREASURY DEPARTMENT WASHDC

UNCLAS STATE 079325

ATTN PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 28 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. THAILAND PM KRIANGSAK BEGINS 8-DAY VISIT TO PRC WEDS,
DRAMATIZING INTENTION FORGE GOOD RELS W/COMMUNIST NATIONS;
27-MEMBER DEL EXPECTED DISCUSS AGREEMENTS ON TRADE/
SCIENTIFIC-TECH CO-OP (REUTER BANGKOK).

US CONTAINER SHIP PRES ROOSEVELT COLLIDED W/THAI FREIGHTER
IN HEAVY FOG OFF HK EARLY MONDAY AM. ONE DEATH REPORTED
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BELIEVED BE CREWMAN ABOARD THAI VESSEL CHANNARN SAMUT;
EXTENT OF DAMAGE NOT KNOWN, BUT SHIPS NOT BELIEVED IN
DANGER OF SINKING (JOC).

2. MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA'S PALM OIL EXPORTS EXPECTED REACH 4.5 MIL TONS IN
7 YRS WHEN EARNINGS WILL SURPASS NAT RUBBER AS COUNTRY'S
LARGEST EARNER FOR EXCHANGE, PALM OIL SEMINAR TOLD MONDAY
(UPI KL, JOC).

NEW MALAYSIA-AUSSIE SUGAR CONTRACT, TO BE SIGNED BETWN
2 COUNTRIES SOON, WILL KEEP RETAIL PRICE SUGAR IN MALAYSIA
STABLE, DEP PM TOLD PARLIAMENT (UNICOM NEWS KL, JOC).

3. JAPAN

CABINET HAS DECIDED DELAY OPENING NARITA AIRPORT FOLLOWING
DESTRUCTION VITAL CONTROL EQUIPMENT BY LEFT-WING DEMON-
STRATORS SAT. OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAYS NO NEW OPENING DATE
SET. MEANWHILE, POLICE SEIZED DEMONSTRATORS' CONCRETE
FORTRESS OVERLOOKING AIRPORT 3/28, ARRESTING 51. FUKUDA
CALLS PROTESTORS' ACTIONS "CHALLENGE TO SOCIAL ORDER AND
DEMOCRACY" (MALCOLM, NYT TOKYO; NAKAMIKADO, REUTER TOKYO;
CHAPMAN, WP TOKYO; AP, SUN NARITA; WSJ).

TRANSPORT SEC ADAMS SAYS US-JAPAN AIR NEGOTS HAVE BROKEN OFF
UNTIL NEXT FALL. BLAMES TALKS' FAILURE ON US REFUSAL PURSUE
MORE AGGRESSIVE BARGAINING. DOS HEADS TALKS, BUT ADAMS
SUGGESTS TRANSPORT SHOULD TAKE OVER (WSJ).

DOLLAR FELL TO ANOTHER RECORD LOW ON TOKYO FOREX MART 3/27,
DESPITE HEAVY BANK OF JAPAN INTERVENTION. DEALERS SAID
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FACTOR BEHIND DOLLAR'S FALL IS MKT DISAPPOINTMENT THAT
WEEKEND MTG JAPANESE ECON CABINET MINS PRODUCED NO CONCRETE
MEASURES REDUCE COUNTRY'S MASSIVE SURPLUSES (REUTER TOKYO
3/27).

JAPAN'S CONS;L GENRL IN LA (WATARU MIYAKAWA) WRITES LAT
3/25 SEEKING CLARIFY FACTS ON RECENT KILLING 1,000 DOL-
PHINS ON IKI ISLAND. SAYS CONTRARY TO SOME REPORTS, NO
MACHINE-GUNNING INVOLVED/GOJ PAID NO BOUNTY FOR DOLPHINS.
URGES UNDERSTANDING IKI FISHERMEN'S PLIGHT/ATTEMPTS
JUSTIFY THEIR ACTION.

4. KOREA

HOUSE ETHICS CMTE TO QUESTION TONGSUN PARK IN 3 DAYS PUBLIC
HEARINGS STARTING 4/3, DURING WHICH PARK WILL BE ONLY
WITNESS (UPI, WP).

UPI REPORTS SUZI PARK THOMSON--LINKED IN NEWS LEAKS OF
CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY W/KCIA'S WASHINGTON OPERATIONS--SAYS
SHE HAS BECOME "PRISONER" IN HER HOME/WANTS CHANCE CHALLENGE
STORIES PUBLICLY. CLAIMS SHE HAS BEEN "HARASSED AND PERSE-
CUTED" BY INVESTIGATORS ON FRASER SUBCMTE (WSTAR 3/27).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

5. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

WP EDIT CONTENTS NO SINGLE NATL POLICY BETTER EXPRESSES
FUNDAMENTAL AMERICAN VALUES THAN WELCOME US TRADITIONALLY
ACCORDS REFUGEES. NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT LAW/POLICY IN THIS
AREA ARE DATED/UNWIELDY, THAT REP EILBERT/SEN KENNEDY HAVE
PROPOSED REFORM LEGISLATION. OBSERVES BILLS DIFFER SOME-
WHAT IN THEIR NUMBERS, MORE SUBSTANTIALLY IN HOW THEY
ALLOT POLICY-MAKING POWER. CONCLUDES "IMPATIENTLY" THAT
TOO MUCH BEING MADE OF APPEARANCE OF PHILOSOPHICAL/POL
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DISAGREEMENT, NOT ENOUGH OF BROAD COMMON INTEREST IN
ADJUSTING POLICY/CORRECTING HARDSHIPS/CODIFYING WHAT IS
BEST IN LAST 20 YRS REFUGEE PRACTICE. SAYS THERE IS NO
GREAT BATTLE CRYING BE FOUGHT OVER REFUGEE POLICY
REFORM: IT MERELY REQUIRES THAT ADMIN "GET ITS ACT
TOGETHER."

IN NYT SPEC, KAMM (NONG KHAI) NOTES MEO ARE ON RUN ONCE
MORE, DRIVEN BY WAR THAT FOR THEM HAS NEVER STOPPED.
SAYS 850 HAVE ARRIVED THAILAND THIS MONTH, MOSTLY FROM
PHOU BIA WHERE MAJOR MIL CAMPAIGN MOUNTED BY LAOTIAN/
VIET FORCES AGAINST MEO IN FEB. SAYS SOME WENT NORTH,
DEEPER INTO MTS, OTHERS FLED TO THAILAND AFTER ARDUOUS
10-DAY TREKS ALONG RIDGE LINES, STAYING IN MTS LONG AS
POSSIBLE BEFORE EXPOSING THEMSELVES ON FLATLANDS.
REFUGEES SAY BETWN 1/3,000 STILL HIDING IN FOOTHILLS
AWAITING SAFE TIME/PLACE TO CROSS INTO THAILAND. IN
NONG KHAI, 900 REFUGEES LIVE IN AREA SIZE OF FOOTBALL
FIELD; LUCKY ONES EVENTUALLY SENT UN-SUPERVISED CAMP
WHERE 24,000 NOW WAITING PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE.

6. INDONESIA

LAT'S MCARTHUR (BANGKOK 3/26) SAYS REELECTION SUHARTO
BROUGHT LITTLE CHEER TO INDO/ASEAN STATES, THAT PRES
HAS LOST "CONSENSUS." NOTES ASEAN MEMBERS PRIVATELY
VIEW SUHARTO AS OBSTRUCTIONIST WHO PAYS ONLY LIP
SERVICE TO REGIONAL ECON PLANS. SAYS HE HAS BEEN SHAKELY
BY POL DEFECTIONS/DISCONTENT AMONG MOSLEM LEADERS, NAMELY
VP HAMENGKU BUWONO, HEREDITARY SULTAN F GENEALA/GEOPINES
ABDUL HARIS NASUTION AND HIS BRI;AGE OF GENERALS.OPINES
CRITICISM FROM CONSERVATIVE LEADERS WILL CONTINUE CLOUD
HIS FUTURE--UNTIL HE DEPARTS.
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7. CHINA

CITING PHOTOS OF PLA TRYING OUT WEAPONS USED IN EUROPE
BY FRG ARMY/BREAKDOWN IN SINO-SOVIET NORMALIZATION TALKS/

PEKING MOVES TO REOPEN RELS W/INDIA, CSM'S HARSCH MAINTAINS THESE 3 ITEMS READ TOGETHER "EXPOSE AN ACTIVE CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY." CONTENTS "STRUGGLE IS OVER," HUA WILL CONTINUE AS MAN IN FRONT PERFORMING CEREMONIAL CHORES, WHILE TENG WILL CALL POLICIES FROM SHADOW BEHIND HUA.

HARSCH ASSERTS THERE IS "MISSING ELEMENT IN THIS PICTURE. THERE IS NOTHING GOING ON" BETWN PRC/US; "AND ISN'T IT TIME?" DECLARES US NOW HAS EASIER RELATIONSHIP W/PEKING THAN DOES SOVIETS; US DOES NOT THREATEN PRC, SOVIET DOES. CAUTIONS MOSCOW "COULD REMOVE THAT THREAT AT WILL, ANY DAY," AND THEN BE IN POSITION TO ENJOY AT LEAST AS EASY ACCESS TO NEW CHINESE RULERS AS DOES US--AND US' "GREAT ADVANTAGE" OF BEING ON NON-HOSTILE TERMS W/BOTH PRC/SOVIET WOULD DISAPPEAR. "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE ELEMENTARY PRUDENCE FOR WASHINGTON TO PUT MORE TRAFFIC ON THE LINES TO PEKING."

WSJ REPRINTS "ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL" STAFF REPORTER FRANK CHING'S ARTICLE ANALYZING LATEST AMENDMENTS TO CHINESE CONSTITUTION. FEELS IT'S CLEAR THAT CHINESE ARE MOVING IN DIRECTION OF INSTITUTIONALIZING RULE BY LAW RATHER THAN RULE OF PERSONALITIES.

8. CHINA/JAPAN

THARP (CSM TOKYO) OBSERVES THAT "ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE IS A FLURRY OF NEW ACTIVITY" OVER LONG-STALLED SINO-JAPANESE TREATY OF PEACE/FRIENDSHIP. SAYS SIGNING TREATY W/PEKING WOULD BE POPULAR MOVE/ WOULD HELP ENSURE SOUND LDP VICTORY
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AT POLLS. FEELS FM SONODA'S PEKING TRIP INDICATES CHINESE HAVE AGREED TO COMPROMISE W/GOJ REGARDING LONG-DISPUTED HEGEMONY CLAUSE.

9. CAMBODIA/VIETNAM

DESPITE VN'S SUPERIOR SIZE/ECON/MIL POWER, CSM'S MORITZ (BANGKOK) SAYS CAMBODIA APPEARS HAVE EMERGED AS TECHNICAL "VICTOR" FOLLOWING VIET INVASION. FOR VN, SAYS THERE APPEARS NO EASY SOLUTION ON HORIZON; ITS TROUBLED ECON/ BATTLE-WEARY MIL FORCES FACE CONTINUING DRAIN FROM UN-ABATED BOR
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